

for a poor woman who had been baptized five days before. But the Holy Ghost is a great Master; and he seems to take a special pleasure in communicating himself to these good souls, in which he finds the simplicity that he loves so well, and which is an excellent preparation for his enlightening influences. "Be of good will," [216] said this same woman to a companion, "and God will help thee. On the day that I was baptized, I did not know my *Credo*; I had not been able to learn it. I prayed to God, and, when I awoke on the following day, I said it all alone." He who instructs her inwardly also gives her strength to bear adversity, and as much courage as she needs to endure extreme poverty, and the loss of her husband and of her three little children, that she has recently experienced.

Another, on seeing the Father's Breviary one day, said to him: "Guess my thoughts. I am inclined to steal it; I would like to know what thou knowest, and all that is in thy book. If I could steal all that from thee, I would not cease to pray to God." "But," said the Father, "dost thou not know thy rosary well?" "Yes, indeed," she said, "I do know it well." "Dost thou not say it?" "I say it three times a day,—in the morning, during Mass; in the afternoon; and at night, when I am about to lie down to sleep." "That is enough," the Father said to her; "continue to do so." "I will; but if, in addition to that, I knew something else, [217] Oh, how pleased I would be! Therefore, do not weary of teaching me."

Here is another, who is no less fervent. She has an admirable zeal concerning the respect that should be paid to holy things, and cannot endure that any